

July 28, 2021

Chairman Peter Lake
Commissioner Will McAdams
Commissioner Lori Cobos
1701 N. Congress Ave.
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: PUCT Project No. 51617, Calendar Year 2021 – Open Meeting Agenda Items without an Associated Control Number

ERCOT Resource Outage Approval Process – July 29, 2021 PUCT Open Meeting

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. (ERCOT) submits the attached ERCOT Resource Outage Approval Process presentation in response to Commissioner Cobos' July 14, 2021 memorandum and the July 15, 2021 PUCT Open Meeting request of ERCOT.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this presentation or require additional information.

Respectfully,

/s/ Chad V. Seely

Chad V. Seely
Vice President and General Counsel
(512) 225-7035
chad.seely@ercot.com



Resource Outage Approval Process

PUCT Open Meeting
July 29, 2021

Current Outage Overview

- ERCOT currently processes about 26,000 Resource outages annually (based on 2020 numbers).

~70% of those outages, consisting mostly of Forced or Maintenance Level outages, are submitted with less than 3 days notice. Most are automatically accepted by ERCOT because they are in the Forced category meaning the outage is unavoidable.

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~10% are Planned Outages and submitted with more than 45 days notice to ERCOT. By Protocol rule they are automatically accepted by ERCOT.

The remaining Outages are a mix of Planned Outages, Extensions, and Maintenance Level outages, some of which are approved by ERCOT.

- 60% of all outages last 1 day or less

Current Process

3.1.6.6 Timelines for Response by ERCOT for Resource Outages

Amount of time between a request for acceptance of a Planned Outage and the scheduled start of the proposed Outage:	ERCOT shall approve, accept or reject no later than:
Three days	ERCOT shall approve or reject within 1800 hours, two days before the start of the proposed Outage
Between four and eight days	ERCOT shall approve or reject within 1800 hours, three days prior to the start of the proposed Outage
Between nine and 45 days	Five Business Days after submission. Planned Outages are automatically accepted if not rejected at the end of the fifth Business Day following receipt of request.
Greater than 45 days	ERCOT must accept, but ERCOT may discuss reliability and scheduling impacts to minimize cost to the ERCOT System in an attempt to accomplish minimum overall impact. Within five Business Days, ERCOT will notify the submitter if there is a conflict with a previously scheduled Outage.

New Process

Amount of time between a request for acceptance of a Planned Outage and the scheduled start of the proposed Outage:	ERCOT shall approve, accept or reject no later than:
Three days	ERCOT shall approve or reject within 1800 hours, two days before the start of the proposed Outage
Between four and eight days	ERCOT shall approve or reject within 1800 hours, three days prior to the start of the proposed Outage
Between nine and 45 days	Five Business Days after submission. Planned Outages are automatically accepted if not rejected at the end of the fifth Business Day following receipt of request.
Greater than 45 days	<p>ERCOT shall approve (or reject) within a defined timeframe* as long as the approved aggregate amount of all outages is less than an allowable capacity for each day of the request.</p> <p>*Timeframe to be defined in stakeholder process</p>

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Draft Changes Necessary to Implement New Process

- Protocol Changes will be required for Planned Outages submitted with more than 45-days notice:
 - Development of a schedule of allowable outage capacity for future months
 - Available publically and continuously updated to provide greater transparency
 - Criteria for the levels of allowable outages would need to be determined
 - An overlay of previously approved outages for future months should be publically provided in aggregate to provide greater visibility
- System Changes to the ERCOT Outage Scheduler will be needed for proposed changes.
- Additional staff time will be required to process changes and modify related reports.